dropped punitive action an any case or permitted compounding of the offence; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Section 113(1) of the Companies Act, 1956 provides that every company shall deliver certificates of shares, debentures or debenture stocks to the transferee within two months after the application for registration of transfer of such shares, debentures and debenture stocks.

The Company Law Board may, however, on an application being made to it in this behalf by the Company, extend this time limit to a further period not exceeding nine months in case of debentures and debenture stocks if it is satisfied that it is not possible for the company to deliver such certificates within the said period.

Section 113(2) provides that if default is made in compiling with sub-section (1), the company and every officer of the company who is in default shall be punishable with fine which may extend to Rs. 500/- for every day during which the default continues.

(c) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Deposit of Funds by PSUs

3560. SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Public Sector Undertakings are required to bank with and deposit their funds, if any, only in the nationalised banks;

(b) if so, whether there has been a change of the policy in recent years permitting Public Sector Undertakings to deal in the financial matters with private sector and foreign banks; and

(c) if so, the date from which such changes have been made effective and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) According to the existing instructions dated 3.1.92 the public enterprises can undertake normal banking transactions with any bank of their choice. However, for deposit of their surplus funds, as per instructions dated 14.12.94, the PSUs are permitted to deposit with any scheduled commercial bank incorporated in India subject to their fulfilling certain conditions. The changes were effected in order to avoid instances of misuse of funds.

Leather Industry

3561. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated to improve and develop the leather industry and make it internationally competitive; and

(b) if so, the details of the international agencies assisting in our leather sector and the nature of assistance being provided by them?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) For the integrated development of the leather industry in India, a comprehensive scheme titled 'National Leather Development Programme' has been drawn up by the Ministry of Industry and is being implemented with the assistance received from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

(b) A statement is attached.

STATEMENT

Under the National Leather Development Programme international collaborations have been established and implemented in the following areas :

Sl. No.	Name of the Indian Institution	Name of the Foreign Agency	Subject
01.	Footwear Design and Development Institute Noida (UP).	1. Melbourne College of Textiles, Australia	Footwear Technology
		2. Bally International, Switzerland	Establishment of International standard Testing Centre.